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DE RUHMO #3627 2241453
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R 111435Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2586
INFO RUHGLG/AMCONSUL Leningrad 7112
RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2241
RUSRGD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1003
RUSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0606
RUSSAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 1562
LUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 7338
RUSSNR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 2253
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

CH: 2766

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 23627

E.O. 12065: R/A
TAGS: PEP9, AF, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA REPORT TARAKI'S DEATH

1. SOVIET NEWSPAPERS ON OCTOBER 10 AND 11 CARRIED A
TERSE, ONE-SENTENCE TASS REPORT QUOTING THE AFGHAN NEWS
AGENCY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF TARAKI'S DEATH. THE TELEVISION
EVENING NEWS PROGRAM VREMYA CARRIED THE SAME REPORT,
SPOKEN IN SOLEMN TONES, ON OCTOBER 12. SOVIET MEDIA HAD
NOT MENTIONED TARAKI SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RESIG-
NATION FOR REASONS OF HEALTH SEPTEMBER 16.

2. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF AFGHANISTAN IN
GENERAL AND AMIN IN PARTICULAR HAS DECREASED NOTICEABLY
SINCE SEPTEMBER 16. THIS DEVELOPMENT MAY REFLECT SOVIET
UNCERTAINTY ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND ABOUT
AMIN'S POSITION ITSELF AFTER THE COUP AGAINST TARAKI.
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